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EXAMINER

WILLETT, STEPHAN F

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2141

DATE MAILED: 06/04/2003

32

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.
09/037,822

Applicant(s)
Motoyama

Examiner
Stephan Willett

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2141



-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Apr 2, 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 29, 33, 37, and 41-53 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 29, 33, 37, 41-47, 49, 50, and 52 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 48, 51, and 53 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). _____ 6) ☐ Other:

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DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims 48, 51 and 53 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 29, 33, 37, 41-47, 49-50, 52 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Moline et al. with Patent Number 5,883,957 in view of Isozaki with Patent Number 5,999,905.

4. Regarding claims 29, 33, 37, 41, 45-46, 49, Moline teaches a quasi-real time or streaming MIDI music playing technique. Moline teaches receiving music data over a public communications line or the Internet, col. 8, lines 7-11, 63-67. Moline teaches judging whether data is specific data, col. 9, lines 43-46. Moline teaches receiving first time information as "MIDI file reader includes two subcomponents ... parser reads events in order from track, each event of course includes event message and elapsed time descriptor", col. 6, lines 44-48, and

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particularly, "elapsed time descriptor is converted to time stamp", col. 6, lines 58-59 and in more detail col. 6, lines 51-55. Moline teaches subtracting a predetermined time [time delay] from time information as "the delay time period is added to the server start time", col. 13, lines 10-11 or "the amount of track that must be accumulated before receiver begins playing the track is determined by a delay parameter set by the user of receiver", col. 12, lines 1-3, "delay 617 in Fig. 6", col. 11, line 67. Moline teaches storing means for temporarily storing the data received by said reception means as "MIDI stream generator keeps track of the last event that it output, the amount of time that has actually elapsed since it began playing the track, and the total amount of time specified by the elapsed time indicators in events played thus far", see Moline et al. col. 6, lines 26-31, and "the result of this operation is an event, which is then added to stored track in memory" at col. 6, lines 53-54. Moline teaches processing means for starting the processing of the data temporarily stored in said memory when said second time information reaches the first as "output event messages until either an event is reached whose time stamp is greater", and "this incremental addition of parts", col. 7, 8, lines 15-16, 4-6, "the delay varies as the preferred embodiment waits to begin [subtracts] playing track until enough of track has accumulated", col. 11, lines 59-64, "beginning at the start of stored track, the time stamp of each event is added to the server start time and subtracted from the play time", col. 13, lines 12-14 and "MIDI stream generator generates MIDI stream from stored track as follows: ... set the timer and wait for it to expire again", col. 7, lines 10-20. Moline teaches the invention in the above claims except for explicitly teaching a second time, however, Moline waits the said second time until the track is played. In that Moline operates to buffer data for quasi-real time play the artisan would have

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looked to the computer data streaming arts for details of buffering signals. In that art, Isozaki, a related data buffering system, teaches a chaining of data streams. Isozaki, specifically teaches "a start time", col. 11, lines 2-3. A second time is taught. The motivation to incorporate a stated second time insures that data is generated at the right time. Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to incorporate the computed time as taught in Isozaki into the MIDI player described in the Moline patent because Moline operates with delay times to achieve streaming data and Isozaki suggests that streaming of data can be obtained with a second computed time. Therefore, by the above rational, the above claim(s) are rejected.

5. Regarding claims 42, Moline teaches an absolute time added to said first time as "time stamp contains the sum of the elapsed times in all of the time descriptors from the beginning of [the] track", col. 6, lines 53-54.

6. Regarding claims 43, Moline teaches rectifying or delaying said first time, col. 13, lines 26-27.

7. Regarding claims 44, Moline teaches a determiner that calculates the delay time, col. 11, lines 41-44, 62-66, in accord with memory capacity col. 7, lines 1-4, col. 12, lines 64-66 and col. 13, lines 4-6.

8. Regarding claims 47, 50, 52, Isozaki teaches mixing recovery data with a delay, col. 21, lines 34-38, col. 27, lines 20-24.

9. Claims 29, 33, 37, 41-47, 49-50, 52 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Moline et al. with Patent Number 5,883,957 in view of Shioda with patent

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Number 5,430,243.

10. Regarding claims 29, 33, 37, 41, 45-46, 49, teaches a quasi-real time or streaming MIDI music playing technique. Moline teaches receiving music data over a public communications line or the Internet, col. 8, lines 7-11, 63-67. Moline teaches judging whether data is specific data, col. 9, lines 43-46. Moline teaches receiving first time information as "MIDI file reader includes two subcomponents ... parser reads events in order from track, each event of course includes event message and elapsed time descriptor", col. 6, lines 44-48, and particularly, "elapsed time descriptor is converted to time stamp", col. 6, lines 58-59 and in more detail col. 6, lines 51-55. Moline teaches subtracting a predetermined time [time delay] from time information as "the delay time period is added to the server start time", col. 13, lines 10-11 or "the amount of track that must be accumulated before receiver begins playing the track is determined by a delay parameter set by the user of receiver", col. 12, lines 1-3, "delay 617 in Fig. 6", col. 11, line 67. Moline teaches storing means for temporarily storing the data received by said reception means as "MIDI stream generator keeps track of the last event that it output, the amount of time that has actually elapsed since it began playing the track, and the total amount of time specified by the elapsed time indicators in events played thus far", see Moline et al. col. 6, lines 26-31, and "the result of this operation is an event, which is then added to stored track in memory" at col. 6, lines 53-54. (Moline teaches processing means for starting the processing of the data temporarily stored in said memory when said second time information reaches the first as "output event messages until either an event is reached whose time stamp is greater", and "this incremental addition of parts", col. 7, 8, lines 15-16, 4-6, "the delay varies as the preferred

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embodiment waits to begin [subtracts] playing track until enough of track has accumulated", col. 11, lines 59-64, "beginning at the start of stored track, the time stamp of each event is added to the server start time and subtracted from the play time", col. 13, lines 12-14 and "MIDI stream generator generates MIDI stream from stored track as follows: ... set the timer and wait for it to expire again", col. 7, lines 10-20. Moline teaches the invention in above claims except for explicitly teaching a second time, however, Moline waits the said second time until the track is played. In that Moline operates to buffer data for quasi-real time play the artisan would have looked to the computer data streaming arts for details of buffering signals. In that art, Shioda, a related data buffering system, teaches a "basic delay time", col. 4, lines 37 in order to delay "a voice and/or musical tone produced by an electronic musical instrument", col. 4, lines 37-38. Shioda, specifically teaches that "a basic delay time-calculating routine for calculating a basic delay time based on a timing clock of a MIDI signal is started" at col. 4, lines 46-48 and col. 8, lines 28-30. A timing clock and second time is taught that is used to determine delay times. Further, Shioda suggests that "an excellent repeat effect to the performance", col. 1, lines 65-66 will result from applying the delay times. The motivation to incorporate a delay and second time insures that a reference time is used to accurately apply delay times. Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to incorporate the delay and second time as taught in Shioda into the MIDI player described in the Moline patent because Moline operates with delay times to achieve streaming data and Shioda suggests that streaming of data can be obtained with timers and set times. Therefore, by the above rational, the above claim(s) are rejected.

11. Regarding claims 42, Moline teaches an absolute time added to said first time as "time

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stamp contains the sum of the elapsed times in all of the time descriptors from the beginning of [the] track”, col. 6, lines 53-54.

12. Regarding claims 43, Moline teaches rectifying or delaying said first time, col. 13, lines 26-27.

13. Regarding claims 44, Moline teaches a determiner that calculates the delay time, col. 11, lines 41-44, 62-66, in accord with memory capacity col. 7, lines 1-4, col. 12, lines 64-66 and col. 13, lines 4-6.

14. Regarding claims 47, 50, 52, Moline teaches mixing recovery data in three forms of 1) resending information, 2) making a second buffer and 3) extrapolating information from a known signal, col. 14, lines 2-65 and at col. 13, lines 43-47 and 61-63.

Response to Amendment

15. The broad claim language used is interpreted on its face and based on this interpretation the claims have been rejected.

16. The limited structure claimed, without more functional language, reads on the references provided. Thus, Applicant's arguments can not be held as persuasive regarding patentability.

17. The applicant presently claims a method of simply adjusting start times to achieve delayed streaming data. It is suggested more detail is claimed into how the times are determined and what processing is done to achieve the resulting streaming data. A strait forward step by step process of applying said times to said data with a processing scenario to achieve a non-obvious named result is suggested. Thus, Applicant's arguments can not be held as persuasive regarding

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patentability.

18. Applicant suggests adjusting time “at the receiving end”, Paper No. 31, Page 11, lines 22-24 is not taught. First, the references should not be read in a vacuum, the teachings are not mutually exclusive, and must be taken in context of what was reasonable based on the subject matter as a whole as would have been understood at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which the subject matter pertains, thus the delay clearly could be incorporated at the sender or receiver. However, receiver 619(1) in Figure 6 is the receiver that adjusts the time and temporarily stores the data. The received time stamp is delayed by the predetermined amount and as taught by “any technique which achieves the same purpose may be employed”, col. 8, lines 45-46 in Moline. Thus, Applicant’s arguments can not be held as persuasive regarding patentability.


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Conclusion

19. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Stephan Willett whose telephone number is (703) 308-5230. The examiner can normally be reached Monday through Friday from 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM.

20. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Wiley, can be reached on (703) 308-5221. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 746-7239.

21. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-9605.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stephan Willett', written in a cursive style.

Stephan Willett

Patent Examiner

May 12, 2003